

**CLAIMS**

1. A method of preventing or/and treating osteoarthritis in a patient in need thereof comprising administering to said patient a therapeutically effective amount of a calcitonin in free or salt form.
2. A method of inhibiting resorption and/or normalizing turnover of subchondral bone in a patient in need thereof comprising administering to said patient a therapeutically effective amount of a calcitonin in free or salt form..
3. The method according to claims 1 or 2, wherein the therapeutically effective amount of a calcitonin is delivered orally.
4. The method according to claims 1 or 2, wherein the therapeutically effective amount of a calcitonin is delivered orally in a composition comprising the calcitonin and a delivery agent for calcitonin.
5. The method according to claims 1 or 2, wherein the therapeutically effective amount of a calcitonin is delivered orally in a composition comprising the calcitonin which is conjugated to a polymer molecule.
6. The method according to claims 1 or 2, wherein the therapeutically effective amount of a calcitonin is delivered with an effective dosage of an oral pharmaceutical composition comprising calcitonin, at least one pharmaceutically acceptable pH-lowering agent, at least one absorption enhancer, and an enteric coating.
7. The method according to claim 4 to 6, whereas the calcitonin is a salmon calcitonin.
8. The method of claim 4, whereas said pharmaceutical composition comprises a delivery agent selected from the group of 5-CNAC, SNAD, and SNAC.

9. The method according to claims 4, whereas said pharmaceutical composition comprises a delivery agent selected from the group consisting of a disodium salt of 5-CNAC, a disodium salt of SNAD, and a disodium salt of SNAC.
10. The method according to claims 4, whereas said pharmaceutical composition comprises a delivery agent in micronized form.
11. The use of a calcitonin for the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment or/and prevention of osteoarthritis in a patient in need thereof.
12. The use according to claim 11, wherein said calcitonin is salmon calcitonin.
13. The use according to claims 11 or 12, wherein said calcitonin is delivered orally.
15. The use according to claims 11 or 12, wherein said calcitonin is delivered in an oral pharmaceutical composition comprising calcitonin and a delivery agent selected from the group of 5-CNAC, SNAD, and SNAC.
16. The use according to claims 11 or 12, wherein said calcitonin is delivered in an oral pharmaceutical composition comprising calcitonin which is conjugated to a polymer molecule.
17. The use according to claims 11 or 12, wherein said calcitonin is delivered in an oral pharmaceutical composition comprising, at least one pharmaceutically acceptable pH-lowering agent, at least one absorption enhancer, and an enteric coating.
18. A pharmaceutical composition for use in the treatment or/and prevention of osteoarthritis in a patient in need thereof, comprising a calcitonin together with one or more pharmaceutically acceptable diluents or carriers therefore.
19. A pharmaceutical combination for use in the treatment or/and prevention of osteoarthritis in a patient in need thereof, comprising:
  - a) a first agent which is a calcitonin, and
  - b) a co-agent which is a bone resorption inhibitor, bone forming drug or pain reducing agent.

20. A pharmaceutical composition comprising between 0.4 and 2.5 mg of a calcitonin.
21. The use of a calcitonin for the manufacture of a medicament to treat or/and prevent osteoarthritis; wherein said calcitonin is provided in a pharmaceutical composition comprising between 0.4 and 2.5 mg of the calcitonin.
22. A method of preventing or/and treating osteoarthritis in a patient in need thereof comprising administering to said patient a pharmaceutical composition comprising between 0.4 and 2.5 mg of a calcitonin.
23. A pharmaceutical composition for use in treating or/and preventing osteoarthritis comprising between 0.4 and 2.5 mg of a calcitonin.
24. The use of claim 21, the method of claim of claim 22, the composition of claims 18 to 20 or 23, wherein the calcitonin is salmon calcitonin.